

Office of Public Affairs Primary Functions

Children's Health Coordination

Clean, Green and Healthy Schools

Community Involvement (Superfund and RCRA)

Congressional Relations

Correspondence Management System (CMS)

Daily Digest

Environmental Education Grants

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Graphics

Media Relations

Social Media

Peer Reviews

Program Liaisons (Agriculture, Brownfields, Emergency Response, Environmental Justice)

Regional Administrator Events Planning

Web Content/Posting

**Office of Public Affairs
Program Support**

Office of the Regional Administrator

Elected Officials

Event Planning

Press/Media/Social Media

Speech Writing

Office of Environmental Justice

Communication Strategies

Grant Review

Peer Review Documents

Press Releases

Special Event Planning

Training

Web Page Posts

Air & Waste Management Division

Communication Strategies

Community Involvement

Peer Review Documents

Press Releases

Special Event Planning

Web Page Posts

Environmental Services Division

Peer Review Documents

Press Releases

Special Event Planning

Web Page Posts

Office of Policy and Management

Internal Communications

Peer Review Documents

Social Media

Special Event Planning

Web Page Posts

Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

Communication Strategies

Peer Review Documents

Press Releases

Special Event Planning

Web Page Posts

Superfund

Communication Strategies

Community Involvement

Peer Review Documents

Press Releases

Special Event Planning

Web Page Posts

Office of Regional Counsel

Press Releases

Web Page Posts

Office of Public Affairs

Hot Issues

Agriculture

Region 7 will continue to enhance agricultural outreach. For example, we have arranged two speaking opportunities for the R7 Administrator at an Iowa agribusiness convention in February. OPA will arrange additional news interviews about state nutrient reduction efforts and water quality issues related to hypoxia. OPA is continuing outreach with agribusinesses and anhydrous ammonia operators related to 5-year updates of risk management plans. OPA will regularly communicate with editors of farm magazines, farm broadcasters and agriculture reporters. We will arrange various meetings/interviews at land-grant universities, state fairs and the National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention.

Carter Carburetor Superfund Site

The Carter Carburetor Site, 2840 N. Spring Avenue, in St. Louis, Mo., was operated by the Carter Carburetor Corporation and Carter Automotive Products, both of which were subsidiaries of ACF Industries, Inc. from the 1920s until about 1984. The plant consisted of several connected multi-story manufacturing, testing, office, and warehouse buildings that contained approximately 480,000 square feet of space. During its operational life, the plant manufactured carburetors for gasoline- and diesel-powered engines. In 1984, ACF Industries, Inc. closed the plant and dismantled much of the equipment. Although numerous chemicals were used in the plant's manufacturing process, the primary environmental contaminants that remain at the site include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), trichloroethylene (TCE), and asbestos. EPA reached a settlement agreement with ACF Industries to address contamination and demolition of certain buildings at the Carter Carburetor Site. EPA is currently working with ACF Industries to complete removal and demolition activities through the Administrative Settlement Agreement. EPA has conducted years of outreach with the impacted community to keep nearby residents and the public current on all of the cleanup activities conducted at the site

Chicago Heights Superfund Site

The Chicago Heights Boulevard Site involves a contaminated groundwater plume located in an unincorporated area of north St. Louis County, Mo. At some time before 1988, an unknown quantity of the industrial chemical trichloroethylene (TCE) was released at an industrial property located at 9970 Page Avenue, just northwest of the Elmwood Park neighborhood, and traveled through the soil and into the groundwater. Since then, TCE and other contaminants have been detected in groundwater beneath the residential area of Elmwood Park, and TCE vapors have been detected at levels of concern in some of the residences situated adjacent to the industrial site. Vapor mitigation systems have already been installed in some residences to

remove vapors that may otherwise linger in the homes. In November 2012, EPA reached a settlement with PerkinElmer, Inc. (PerkinElmer), the current owner of 9970 Page Avenue, the source of the contamination. This settlement, in the form of an Administrative Settlement and Order on Consent, requires PerkinElmer to address this contamination. EPA is working with PerkinElmer, to address vapor intrusion from TCE in groundwater at homes in the Elmwood Park neighborhood. EPA has also been conducting on-going outreach with nearby residents and the public to provide regular updates on EPA activities at the site.

Climate Change

Members of the Region 7 Climate Action Team were selected in January 2014. The Team consists of staff from across all of the EPA program areas. The CAT will move forward on a various activities to support the President's Climate Action Plan, the Administrator's climate priorities for EPA, and the commitments that Region 7 has made in support of carbon reductions and climate adaptation needs. Working on climate related programs isn't new to Region 7. Over the years we have done good work that supports our energy and emerging climate priorities. In 2013, Region 7 developed our Energy Plan, Climate Adaptation Plan, and initial suggestions for a Region 7 Climate Action Plan. The Air and Waste Management Division has the immediate responsibility for directing the actions of the CAT to ensure all these efforts are coordinated, further refined, and effectively implemented. Amy Bhesania, AWMD, will lead these team efforts, and will be supported closely by Sarah Hatch, OPA. The team will work to expand current regional climate change activities, identify and implement additional projects and strengthen partnerships in Region 7.

Waters of the U.S.

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are expected to release a proposed rule by the end of February to clarify protection under the Clean Water Act for streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources. The proposed rule is limited to clarifying uncertainty about the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act that has arisen from interpretation of Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006. It does not expand federal jurisdiction or protect any new waters that have not historically been covered under the Clean Water Act. This rule is highly controversial due to uncertainty of regulating farm practices, property rights, soil conservation practices, EPA's continued overreach, existing misinformation about the rule and the need to dispel misinformation.

West Lake Landfill Superfund Site

The Westlake Landfill is a Superfund site located in Bridgeton, Mo. The landfill was contaminated in the 1970s with radioactive material related to the nation's nuclear weapons programs. EPA issued a 2008 Record of Decision (ROD) that essentially decided against excavation and removal of the waste in favor of engineering solutions designed to prevent

exposure to the buried wastes. Due to the public's response to the 2008 ROD, EPA is currently re-evaluating remediation alternatives.

Complicating issues at the Westlake landfill is a Sub-Surface Smoldering Event (SSE) that is taking place in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill. The Bridgeton Landfill is currently regulated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The concern is that the SSE may migrate towards the buried nuclear waste at the Westlake Landfill. To mitigate the threat of the SSE reaching the buried radiological impacted material, Republic Services (the Potentially Responsible Party of the waste at the Westlake site) is investigating potential locations for the construction of an isolation barrier between the two landfills. The isolation barrier construction would consist of removal of non-radiological material from the Westlake landfill and then back-filled with inert material designed to prevent further spread of the SSE.

The community, local, state, and federal politicians are highly interested in the site. There is a high amount of media interest in the site as well. The community has formed a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to work with the EPA during the re-evaluation of the 2008 ROD. The CAG has been awarded a Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) grant to assist them with understanding the technical aspects of the site. TASC provides an independent consultant who the CAG can contact with questions regarding the site.

The Westlake Landfill Superfund site is the most visible and contentious site within Region 7 at this time.

111D

In the Clean Air Act, Congress recognized that the opportunity to build emissions controls into a source's design is greater for new sources than for existing sources, so it laid out different approaches to set the two types of standards: a federal program for new sources and state programs for existing sources.

- Section 111 (b) is the federal program to address new, modified and reconstructed sources by establishing standards of performance.
- Section 111 (d) is a state-based program for existing sources. EPA establishes guidelines. States then design programs to fit their particular mix of sources and policies and get the needed reductions.

EPA is engaging in extensive outreach to stakeholders on the various options and best approaches before making a proposal for carbon pollution guidelines for existing power plants. Region 7 held a public meeting Nov. 4 to kickoff the discussion. Since that time, stakeholder meetings have been held with power companies, environmental advocacy groups, electric cooperatives, state environmental agencies, state and local utility districts, electric transmission authorities, and joint talks among all those stakeholders to gather input regarding the rule. The input from key stakeholders will help shape a rule to meet President Obama's June 2014 deadline.